

## Internet Safety Tips for Families

It's not at all uncommon for kids to know more about the Internet and computers than their parents or teachers. If that's the case in your home, don't despair. Turn the tables by having your child teach you a thing or two about the Internet. Ask her where she likes to go on the Internet and what she thinks you might enjoy on the Net. Get your child to talk with you about what's good and not so good about his Internet experience. Also, no matter how Web-literate your kid is, you should still provide guidance. You can't automate good parenting.

Just as adults need to help kids stay safe, they also need to learn not to overreact when they find out a child or teenager has been exposed to inappropriate material or strayed from a rule. Whatever you do, don't blame or punish your child if he tells you about an uncomfortable online encounter. Your best strategy is to work with him, so you both can learn from what happened and figure out how to keep it from happening again. The following tips can help guide you:

- Use the Internet with your kids. While you're spending time with them, you can help them to be safe and responsible online. Learn about the technology together, ask lots of questions, and don't be intimidated if it seems like your kids have a better understanding of the technology than you. Remember, it's your family, and you have the power and responsibility to keep an eye on what your kids are doing.
- Teach kids never to give their personal information to people they meet online, especially in chat rooms and on bulletin boards. If you have a family web site with your children's pictures up, don't include information like where they go to school, where you live, your phone number, or any other personally identifiable information – that's giving personal information out every bit as much as sending an e-mail or talking to someone in a chat room.
- Instruct your child never to plan a face-face meeting with online acquaintances, and to notify you if they are approached for an offline meeting.
- Establish clear ground rules for Internet use for your family. Think about signing a Contract with your children that reflects those rules. Learn about the different parental control tools, protective software, and controlled access options that are available, and decide which, if any, are best for your needs.
- Tell your children not to respond if they receive offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat requests, or other communications, and to leave if they go to a web site that makes them uncomfortable. Also tell them to show you anything they receive that makes them uncomfortable. Assuring them that you won't be angry with them and that they are not to blame can help you to develop a trusting, open relationship.
- If you become worried that your child or another child is in danger, don't hesitate to contact the authorities.

Below is a dictionary of frequently used chat room abbreviations:

121	-	one to one
ADN	-	any day now
AFAIK	-	as far as I know
AFK	-	away from keyboard
<b>A/S/L</b>	-	<b>age, sex, location</b>
B4	-	before
B4N or BFN	-	bye for now
BAK	-	back at the keyboard
BBIAB	-	be back in a bit
BBL	-	be back later
BBN	-	bye bye now
BBS	-	be back soon
BEG	-	big evil grin
<b>BF</b>	-	<b>boyfriend</b>
BG	-	big grin
BL	-	belly laughing
BMTIPG	-	brilliant minds think in parallel gutters
BRB	-	be right back
BTA	-	but then again
BTW	-	by the way
BWL	-	bursting with laughter
BWTHDIK	-	but what the heck do I know
C&G	-	chuckle and grin
CID	-	crying in disgrace
CNP	-	continued (in my) next post
CP	-	chat post
CRBT	-	crying real big tears
CSG	-	chuckle, snicker, grin
CU	-	see you
CUL	-	see you later
CYO	-	see you online
DBAU	-	doing business as usual
DIKU	-	do I know you?
DL	-	dead link
DLTBBB	-	don't let the bed bugs bite
DQMOT	-	don't quote me on this
EG	-	evil grin
EMFBI	-	excuse me for butting in
EMSG	-	e-mail message
EOT	-	end of thread
<b>F2F</b>	-	<b>face to face</b>
FC	-	fingers crossed
FISH	-	first in, still here
FMTYEWTK	-	far more than you ever wanted to know
FOMCL	-	falling off my chair laughing
FTBOMH	-	from the bottom of my heart
FUD	-	fear, uncertainty and doubt
FWIW	-	for what it's worth
G2G	-	got to go
G	-	grin
GA	-	go ahead

GAL	-	get a life
GD&R	-	grinning, ducking and running
GF	-	girlfriend
GFN	-	gone for now
GIWIST	-	gee, I wish I'd said that
GMBO	-	giggling my butt off
GMTA	-	great minds think alike
GOL	-	giggling out loud
GTRM	-	going to read mail
GTSY	-	glad to see you
H&K	-	hug and kiss
HAGN	-	have a good night
<b>HDOP</b>	-	<b>help delete online predators</b>
HHIS	-	hanging head in shame
HTH	-	hope this helps
HUB	-	head up butt
IAC	-	in any case
IANAL	-	I am not a lawyer (but)
IC	-	I see
IDK	-	I don't know
IHA	-	I hate acronyms
IIRC	-	if I remember correctly
ILU	-	I love you
IM	-	instant message
IMHO	-	in my humble opinion
IMNSHO	-	in my not so humble opinion
IMO	-	in my opinion
IOW	-	in other words
IPN	-	I'm posting naked
IRL	-	in real life
IWALU	-	I will always love you
IYSWIM	-	if you see what I mean
JIC	-	just in case
JK	-	just kidding
JMO	-	just my opinion
JTLYK	-	just to let you know
K	-	Okay
KIT	-	keep in touch
KOC	-	kiss on cheek
KOL	-	kiss on lips
KOTC	-	kiss on the cheeks
KWIM	-	know what I mean?
L8R	-	later
LD	-	later, dude
LDR	-	long distance relationship
LLTA	-	lots and lots of thunderous applause
<b>LMIRL</b>	-	<b>lets meet in real life</b>
LMSO	-	laughing my socks off
LOL	-	laughing out loud
LSHMBB	-	laughing so hard my belly is bouncing
LTM	-	laugh to myself

LTNS	-	long time no see
LTR	-	long-term relationship
LULAB	-	love you like a brother
<b>LULAS</b>	-	<b>love you like a sister</b>
LUWAMH	-	love you with all my heart
LY	-	love you
M/F	-	male or female
MOSS	-	member of same sex
MOTOS	-	member of the opposite sex
MSG	-	message
MTF	-	more to follow
MUSM	-	miss you so much
NADT	-	not a darn thing
NIFOC	-	naked in front of computer
NP	-	no problem
NRN	-	no reply necessary
OIC	-	oh I see
<b>OLL</b>	-	<b>on-line love</b>
OM	-	old man
OTC	-	off the floor
OTOH	-	on the other hand
OTTOMH	-	off the top of my head
P2P	-	peer to peer
PDA	-	public display of affection
PEBCAK	-	problem exists between chair and keyboard
PLZ	-	please
PM	-	private message
PMFJIB	-	pardon me for jumping in but
POAHF	-	put on a happy face
<b>POS</b>	-	<b>parent over shoulder</b>
PU	-	that stinks
QT	-	cutie
RL	-	real life
ROTFL	-	rolling on the floor laughing
RPG	-	role playing games
RSN	-	real soon now
S4L	-	spam for life
SETE	-	smiling ear to ear
SHCOON	-	shoot hot coffee out of nose
SHID	-	slaps head in disgust
SF	-	surfer friendly
SNERT	-	snot nosed egotistical rude teenager
SO	-	significant other
SOMY	-	sick of me yet?
SOT	-	short of time
STW	-	search the web
SWAK	-	sealed with a kiss
SWL	-	screaming with laughter
SYS	-	see you soon
TA	-	thanks again
TCOB	-	taking care of business

TCOY	-	take care of yourself
TIA	-	thanks in advance
TILLI	-	tell it like it is
TMI	-	too much information
TOY	-	thinking of you
TTLY	-	talk to you later
UW	-	you're welcome
WB	-	welcome back
WFM	-	works for me
WIBNI	-	wouldn't it be nice if
<b>WTGP</b>	-	<b>want to go private?</b>
WTG	-	way to go
WU	-	what's up?
WUF	-	where are you from?
YBS	-	you'll be sorry
YL	-	young lady
YM	-	young man

***1 in 5 children is sexually solicited online.***

This information was adapted from [kids.getnetwise.org](http://kids.getnetwise.org). For additional resources and information, check out [getnetwise.org](http://getnetwise.org), [safekids.com](http://safekids.com) or [netsmartz.org](http://netsmartz.org).